



ESSEX

Essex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Established in 1819, the Town of Essex is a rural community which still maintains much of its original natural splendor and small town character. Long noted as one of the original shipbuilding centers of New England, Essex maintains strong ties with its heritage by way of the Essex Shipbuilding Museum and its many water resources such as Chebacco Lake, the Essex River and the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, Essex is known for its seemingly endless supply of antique shops and restaurants as well as for the Essex clam, which is a widely recognized symbol of pride and quality. Clamming remains one of the town's principal industries and there is a celebration for the bivalve in September at the annual Essex ClamFest. Visitors can also sample the best the area has to offer at the annual Taste of Essex held in May, which features offerings from most of the area's finest restaurants.

Less than an hour's ride from Boston, Essex is a quaint and friendly coastal community which proudly welcomes visitors and new residents from all walks of life who seek to enjoy the best of what the North Shore has to offer.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Manchester on the south, Hamilton on the west, Ipswich on the north, and Gloucester and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. Essex is about 25 miles north of Boston and about 247 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 15.94 sq. miles

Land Area: 14.16 sq. miles

Population: 3,260

Density: 230 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Middleton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.6°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ipswich, Marblehead North, Gloucester

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 768-6531

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1819

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,264		
Democrats	460	20.3	%
Republicans	570	25.2	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,234	54.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Essex town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,267	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,267	100.0
Male.....	1,606	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	30	0.9
Female.....	1,661	50.8	Mexican.....	8	0.2
Under 5 years.....	181	5.5	Puerto Rican.....	6	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	233	7.1	Cuban.....	2	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	242	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	14	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	189	5.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,237	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	119	3.6	White alone.....	3,195	97.8
25 to 34 years.....	361	11.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	621	19.0	Total population.....	3,267	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	589	18.0	In households.....	3,267	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	169	5.2	Householder.....	1,313	40.2
60 to 64 years.....	120	3.7	Spouse.....	737	22.6
65 to 74 years.....	238	7.3	Child.....	963	29.5
75 to 84 years.....	165	5.1	Own child under 18 years.....	753	23.0
85 years and over.....	40	1.2	Other relatives.....	106	3.2
Median age (years).....	40.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	31	0.9
18 years and over.....	2,475	75.8	Nonrelatives.....	148	4.5
Male.....	1,221	37.4	Unmarried partner.....	70	2.1
Female.....	1,254	38.4	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	2,397	73.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	513	15.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	443	13.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	197	6.0	Total households.....	1,313	100.0
Female.....	246	7.5	Family households (families).....	888	67.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	414	31.5
One race.....	3,249	99.4	Married-couple family.....	737	56.1
White.....	3,218	98.5	With own children under 18 years.....	334	25.4
Black or African American.....	5	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	103	7.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	59	4.5
Asian.....	14	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	425	32.4
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	351	26.7
Chinese.....	3	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	124	9.4
Filipino.....	3	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	434	33.1
Japanese.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	327	24.9
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	2.49	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.03	(X)
Other Asian ¹	2	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	1,446	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,313	90.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	133	9.2
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	89	6.2
Some other race.....	7	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	18	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,313	100.0
White.....	3,236	99.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	916	69.8
Black or African American.....	7	0.2	Renter-occupied housing units.....	397	30.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	14	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.79	(X)
Asian.....	21	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.78	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	9	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	40
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Essex is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 128, the inner belt around Boston.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Essex, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Essex is a member of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA). There is no fixed route service. CATA provides a Dial-A-Ride service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Beverly Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility in neighboring Beverly, has 3 asphalt runways 3,500'; 4,634'; and 5,001' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Essex Shipbuilding Museum
28 Main Street
(978) 768-7541

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.